



It's the law that any construction project priced over \$500 total labor and materials requires that the contractor be licensed in the trade or occupation of the work.

To qualify for a license, a contractor must be able to verify at least four years journey-level experience in the craft, pass a comprehensive trade and license law examination, and meet operating capital, bonding, and workers' compensation requirements.

WHO CAN BECOME A LICENSED CONTRACTOR?

A licensed contractor must be 18 years of age or older and have the experience and skills necessary to manage daily activities of a construction business, including field supervision, or be represented by a qualifying individual with the necessary experience and skills.

WHO MUST BE LICENSED AS A CONTRACTOR?

All businesses or individuals who construct or alter any building, highway, road, parking facility, railroad, excavation, or other structure in California must be licensed by the California Contractors State License Board if the total cost (labor and materials) of one or more contracts on the project is \$500 or more. Contractors must be licensed before submitting bids.

WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED?

At least four years of experience is required to qualify for the exam. Credit is given for experience as a journeyman, foreman, supervising employee, contractor, or owner-builder.

IS THERE AN EDUCATION REQUIREMENT?

There are no education requirements to qualify for a contractor's license. You may receive credit for technical training, apprenticeship training, or education instead of a portion of the required four years of practical experience. At least one year must be practical experience.

IS THERE AN EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR A CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE?

Yes, the qualifying individual for a contractor's license is required to pass written law and trade examinations, unless he or she meets the requirements for a waiver. An examination notice will be sent at least three weeks prior to the examination date.

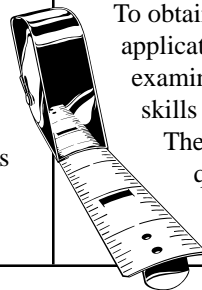
Also, contractors who engage in the business of home improvement or who provide goods and services for home improvement must complete the Home Improvement Certification open-book exam.

WHAT IS HOME IMPROVEMENT CERTIFICATION?

The law requires that all contractors who do home improvement to be certified as a home improvement contractor by July 1, 2000. Home improvement includes repairing, remodeling, altering, converting, modernizing, or adding to residential property land or structures.

To obtain certification, the qualifier listed on the application must take and pass an open book examination on the business, law, and construction skills related to home improvement contracting.

The exam consists of about 20 multiple-choice questions.



ARE THERE ANY FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR A CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE?

Yes. All applicants, other than those applying for a joint venture license, must have more than \$2,500 worth of operating capital.

Also, a contractor's bond or cash deposit in the amount of \$7,500 is required (except for Swimming Pool, C-53, which requires a \$10,000 bond or cash deposit). The CSLB does not issue bonds.

IS WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE REQUIRED?

All contractors are required to present proof of workers' compensation insurance coverage. Contractors who do not have employees working for them will be required to file a certificate of exemption.

HOW MUCH DOES THE LICENSE COST?

In addition to the financial requirements that must be met, it costs \$250 for an original application fee (nonrefundable) and \$150 for the initial license fee for one classification. The license must be renewed every two years. Currently, the renewal fee is \$300.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Obtain an Application for Original Contractor's License from any office of the Contractors State License Board. To request an application form, call the CSLB's 24-hour automated public information line, (800) 321-CSLB (2752); contact our website, www.cslb.ca.gov; or write to us at P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826.



WHAT ARE THE CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS?

The CSLB issues a license to contract in a particular trade or field of the construction profession. Each separate trade is recognized as a "classification." You may add as many classifications to your license for which you qualify. CSLB issues licenses for the following classifications:

Class A—General Engineering Contractor.

The principal business is in connection with fixed works requiring specialized engineering knowledge and skill.

Class B—General Building Contractor.

The principal business is in connection with structures that shelter and enclose persons, animals, chattels, or movable property requiring in their construction more than two unrelated trades. The "B" contractor may subcontract any single or multiple trade or craft without the additional "C" specialty license.

Class C—Specialty Contractor. At right are the 39 separate "C" classifications for contractors whose construction work requires special skills and whose principal contracting business involves the use of specialized building trades or crafts. Manufacturers are considered to be contractors if engaged in on-site construction, alteration, repair, or installation.

CLASSIFICATION

CODE

Boiler, Hot Water Heating and Steam Fitting	C-4
Building Moving and Demolition	C-21
Carpentry, Cabinet and Millwork	C-5
Concrete	C-8
Drywall	C-9
Earthwork and Paving	C-12
Electrical (General)	C-10
Electrical Signs	C-45
Elevator Installation	C-11
Fencing	C-13
Fire Protection	C-16
Flooring and Floor Covering	C-15
General Manufactured Housing	C-47
Glazing	C-17
Insulation and Acoustical	C-2
Landscaping	C-27
Limited Specialty	C-61
Lock and Security Equipment	C-28
Low Voltage Systems	C-7
Masonry	C-29
Ornamental Metals	C-23
Parking and Highway Improvement	C-32
Painting and Decorating	C-33
Pipeline	C-34
Plastering	C-35
Plumbing	C-36
Refrigeration	C-38
Roofing	C-39
Sanitation System	C-42
Sheet Metal	C-43
Solar	C-46
Steel, Reinforcing	C-50
Steel, Structural	C-51
Swimming Pool	C-53
Tile (Ceramic & Mosaic)	C-54
Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning	C-20
Water Conditioning	C-55
Welding	C-60
Well-Drilling (Water)	C-57

BUILDING YOUR CAREER AS A

Licensed Contractor



*For more detailed information on becoming a California licensed contractor, order a free copy of **Blueprint for Becoming a California Licensed Contractor** by calling (800) 321-CSLB (2752), print an order form from our*

website, www.cslb.ca.gov, or write to the CSLB at P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826.

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

*State of California
Department of Consumer Affairs*